



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 16th October 2018.

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR)(Chair), Rachel Lewis (RL), Damon Wellman (DW), Iain Turner (IT) and Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY). The Clerk Helen Johnson was in attendance.

187. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – nothing raised.

188. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – no apologies received.

189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - the Chairman declared a personal interest in 190iii regarding the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Parish Magazine. Cllr Lewis declared a personal interest in 190iii regarding ENGage. The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors had a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 191 and granted them dispensation for this item.

190. FINANCE MATTERS:

i. Bank reconciliation – dated September 2018 was signed by a non-signatory Councillor as part of the quarterly controls.

ii. Review of 2018-19 precept spending – a discussion was held on the report that had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report was signed by the Chair.

iii. Precept – the Chair suspended standing orders so that a representative from Tunbridge Wells and District Samaritans could speak in support of their grant application. Standing Orders were reinstated.

A Councillor questioned about using public money for the Parish Council (PC) to give grants. He has also questioned the legality of this and the Clerk has provided him with details of the powers used to pay grants. He advised that some charities are also getting grants from i.e. WDC. Councillors responded advising that details of the grants made by the PC are available to residents, that the amount used for grants is small however it has a big impact on the charities concerned and that it is important that charities receive funding from their local community.

The Clerk gave details of the grant applications that had been received. The Playing Field Committee grant application won't be received till the November meeting, they are currently in the process of getting quotes. It was suggested that the PC shouldn't be funding for sports cuts as this should be paid from the hiring income. The Committee have funding for a further year's football pitch cutting.

It was proposed and agreed that the PC would manage the grass cutting contract for the play area, bund and the hillock for the zip wire landing area. *The Clerk will write a specification for the burial ground and play area grounds maintenance for March – October 2019 and will send a copy to Cllr Michaelson-Yeates prior to issue.*

Clerk

The Clerk went through the items she had listed as extras required for 2019/20. A discussion was held regarding the ongoing legal fees and it was questioned why only the PC were paying these. *The Chair will raise with the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee.*

Chair

The Chair allowed a member of the public to comment.

A member of the public raised about ESCC Highways and how dangerous some junctions were with overgrown verges, the Clerk highlighted that members of the public can report overgrown verges that are a danger, to Highways and they would then arrange for them to be cut. The member of the public also highlighted that signs hadn't been cleaned and the state of the white lining. It was agreed for the Clerk to include £350 in a Highways budget for 2019/20.

iv. Assets register was agreed and signed.

v. Bank accounts – the Clerk had provided Councillors with a breakdown of bank account options, it was agreed to stay with the current bank and accounts.

vi. Website – the Clerk has been contacted asking if it is acceptable for the PC to be invoiced for £600 for work on the PC part of the village website. The Chair and Clerk had been advised, at a meeting with

another representative of the website, that there would be no charge. A charge of £100pa would also be required to cover site backups, wordpress updates and continued support. The Clerk confirmed that the support so far provided had been very helpful. The Clerk expressed concern that the charge for this year would not comply with the PC's Financial Regulations as if they'd known of the charge they should have strived to get 3 quotes, also the cost had not been budgeted for. *The Chair will contact the website representative who had run the original meeting with the Clerk and Chair.* To discuss further at the next meeting.

Chair

191. PLANNING:

PLANNING MATTERS

Hadlow Down Community Centre application – Councillors had been sent the paperwork prior to the Meeting and a number of items were raised that the *Clerk will pass onto the Chair of the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee and the architect.*

The Chair allowed a member of the public to comment on the public meeting mentioned on the agenda and the Chair confirmed that there will be another public meeting prior to the application being submitted.

192. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - The following payment was agreed and the cheque was signed:

- i. SSALC Limited £54.00 ESALC conference

193. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – the Clerk confirmed that the battery had been checked and that there were no issues.

194. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA – nothing raised.

The meeting closed at 8:08pm